REMARKS

By the present amendment, the abstract will have been replaced and claims 1-9 will have been amended solely to delete the reference characters therefrom. Thus, the present amendment is not intended to narrow the scope of the claims. Accordingly, this amendment should not be considered a decision by Applicants to narrow the claims in any way. Entry of the foregoing amendment to the claims is based is respectfully requested prior to examination of the aboveidentified patent application.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

> Respectfully submitted, Noriyuki TANI et al.

Reg. No. 44,550

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